REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 26, 2003. Claims 1-8, 11-13, 21, 24-31, 57-64, 67-69, 77, 80-87, 113-120, 123-125, 133, 136-143, 169-176, 179-181, 189, and 192-199 are presented for examination, and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 9, 10, 14-20, 22, 23, 32-56, 65, 66, 70-76, 78, 79, 89-112, 121, 122, 126-132, 134, 135, 144-168, 177, 178, 182-188, 190, 191, and 200-224 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter; and will not be discussed further. Claims 1, 25, 27, 57, 81, 83, 113, 137, 139, 169, 193, and 195 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 25, 26, 81, 82, 137, 138, 193, and 194 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claims 25, 81, 137, and 193 have been so rewritten, and are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 26, 82, 138, and 194 depend upon Claims 25, 81, 137, and 193, respectively, and also are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 21, 27, 77, 83, 133, 139, 189, and 195 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

These claims have been carefully reviewed and amended, as deemed necessary, to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in sections 4 and 6 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejections under Section 112, second paragraph, have been obviated, and their withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 11-13, 21, 24, 27-31, 57-64, 67-69, 77, 80, 83-87, 113-120, 123-125, 133, 136, 139-143, 169-176, 179-181, 189, and 192, 195-199 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,996,029 (*Sugiyama et al.*).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 27, 57, 83, 113, 139, 169, and 195 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a print control apparatus for receiving a print job including print data from an external apparatus and controlling an image forming section to form an image based on image data. The apparatus includes storing means, generation means, image formation control means, and interrupt control means. The storing means stores print data. The generation means generates image data by analyzing the print data. The image formation control causes the image forming section to form the image based on the image data generated by the generation means. The interrupt control means, in response to an interrupt instruction identifying a print job, interrupts processing of a print job not identified in the interrupt instruction and controls the generation means to analyze print data of the print job identified in the interrupt instruction. The storing means stores print data of the interrupted print job, including a print data portion that has already been analyzed by the generation means, until formation of an image based on image data generated from the print data of the identified print job by the image forming section is completed, and the generation means analyzes the print data of the interrupted print job stored in the storing means after analysis of print data of the identified print job is completed.

Among the notable features of Claim 1 are interrupt control means which, in response to an interrupt instruction identifying a print job, interrupts processing of a print job not identified in the interrupt instruction and controls the generation means to analyze the print data of the print job identified in the interrupt instruction, the storing means storing the print data of the interrupted print job, including a print data portion that has already been analyzed by the generation means, until formation of an image based on the image data generated from the print data of the identified print job by the image forming section is completed, and the generation means analyzing the print data of the interrupted print job stored in the storing means after the analysis of the print data of the identified print job is completed.

Sugiyama et al. relates to an information input/output control device and a method therefor which displays a list of identification information indicating an information terminal device with which a functional operation can be executed in a network environment. *Sugiyama et al.* fails to disclose storing print data of the interrupted print job, including a print data portion that has already been analyzed by the generation means, until formation of an image based on the image data generated from the print data of the identified print job by the image forming section is completed, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim1 is not anticipated by *Sugiyama et al.*, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 57, 113, and 169 are method, computer-readable memory medium, and print control program claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 27 is a print control apparatus for receiving a print job including print data from an external apparatus and controlling an image forming section to form an image based on image data. The apparatus includes generation means and image formation control means. The generation means generates image data by analyzing the print data, and the image formation control means causes the image forming section to form an image based on the image data generated by the generation means. The print control apparatus may be operated in a first mode and a second mode. In the first mode, in response to a first mode instruction identifying a print job, received from the external apparatus, to be processed in the first mode, the first mode instruction being included in the identified print job, the generation means is caused to suspend analysis of print data of a print job not identified in the first mode instruction and to analyze print data of the print job identified in the first mode instruction. In the second mode, in response to a second mode instruction identifying a print job, received from the external apparatus, to be processed in the second mode, the second mode instruction being included in the identified print job, the generation means is caused to analyze print data of the print job identified in the second mode instruction after completing analysis of print data of a first print job not identified in the second mode instruction and before starting analysis of print data of a second print job not identified in the second mode instruction, the first and second print jobs being received before the identified print job.

Among the notable features of Claim 27 is that the print control apparatus may be operated in a first mode (e.g., interrupt mode) and a second mode (e.g., promote mode). In the first mode, the generation means is caused to suspend the analysis of the print data of a print job not identified in the first mode instruction and to analyze the print

data of the print job identified in the first mode instruction. In the second mode, the generation means is caused to analyze the print data of the print job identified in the second mode instruction after completing analysis of the print data of a first print job not identified in the second mode instruction and before starting analysis of the print data of a second print job not identified in the second mode instruction. Both the first and second mode instructions are included in the print jobs. Thus, switching between the two modes may be executed by the instructions included in the print jobs.[1]

Sugiyama et al. fails to teach or suggest switching between two print modes where both the first mode instruction and the second mode instruction are included in the identified print jobs.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 27 is not anticipated by *Sugiyama et al.*, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 83, 139, and 195 are method, computer-readable memory medium, and print control program claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 27, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 27.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

1/It should be understood that the examples provided herein are for illustrative purposes, and the scope of the claims is not limited to any details discussed in the illustrative examples.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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